

Amendments to the Drawings:

The sheet of drawings attached in the Appendix includes changes to FIG. 2. This sheet replaces the original sheet. A longitudinal axis L has been added to FIG. 2. No new matter has been added.

Remarks

The Examiner's comments in the Office Action mailed July 12, 2007 have been carefully considered. Claims 1-20 remain pending in the application. Claims 1-11, 15, 18, and 20 have been amended. Support for these amendments can be found throughout the specification and figures. No new matter has been added.

Reexamination and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Objections to the Drawings

Formal objection has been made to the drawings for failing to show the longitudinal axes of the insulation-displacement terminal contacts lying parallel to a surface of a printed circuit board when the conductor connection module is in an installed state on the printed circuit board. The Examiner's comments have been considered and appropriate correction has been made. FIG. 2 has been amended to show the longitudinal axes of the insulation-displacement terminal contacts lying parallel to a surface of a printed circuit board when the conductor connection module is in an installed state on the printed circuit board. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Formal objection has been made to claims 1-20. The Examiner's comments have been considered and appropriate correction has been made. Appropriate editorial revisions have been made to claim 1. Furthermore, FIG. 2 has been amended to show the longitudinal axes of the insulation-displacement terminal contacts lying parallel to a surface of a printed circuit board when the conductor connection module is in an installed state on the printed circuit board. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-3, 7-11 and 16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,591,225 to Squitieri (hereinafter "Squitieri"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Claim 1 recites, in part, an integral housing extending from a first end at which an insulation-displacement terminal contact is arranged to a second end at which a contact pin is arranged.

Squitieri does not disclose or suggest an integral housing extending from a first end at which an insulation-displacement terminal contact is arranged to a second end at which a contact pin is arranged. Rather, Squitieri discloses a receptacle assembly 20 configured to mate with a plug assembly 30 via tuning fork contacts. Neither the receptacle assembly 20 nor the plug assembly 30 have an insulation-displacement terminal contact arranged at a first end and a contact pin arranged at a second end.

Furthermore, Squitieri teaches away from modifying the two assemblies to form one integral unit. Squitieri is directed to improving a two-piece arrangement including both plug and receptacle connector assemblies. See *Squitieri*, column 1, lines 9-15; column 2, lines 16-20. Modifying the two assemblies to form an integral unit would destroy the functionality of the separate plug and receptacle assemblies.

For at least these reasons, Squitieri does not anticipate claim 1. Claims 2, 3, and 7-10 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 1-3 and 7-10 are respectfully requested. Applicants do not otherwise concede the correctness of the rejection and reserve the right to make additional arguments if necessary.

Claim 11 recites, in part, an integral housing which holds the contact elements including insulation-displacement terminals and contact pins.

As discussed above, Squitieri does not disclose or suggest an integral housing which holds contact elements including insulation-displacement terminals contacts and contact pins. Rather, Squitieri discloses a plug assembly 30 including insulation-displacement terminals and a receptacle assembly 20, which includes contact pins and is configured to mate with the plug assembly 30 via tuning fork contacts.

For at least these reasons, Squitieri does not anticipate claim 11. Claim 16 depends from claim 11 and is allowable for at least the same reasons. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 11 and 16 are respectfully requested. Applicants do not otherwise concede the correctness of the rejection and reserve the right to make additional arguments if necessary.

Claims 4-6, 12-15 and 17-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Squitieri in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,050,845 to Smalley, Jr. et al. (hereinafter "Smalley") and U.S. Patent No. 6,095,854 to Sommer et al. (hereinafter "Sommer"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Claims 4-6 depend from claim 1 and are allowable over Squitieri for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 1. Smalley and Sommer do not overcome the shortcomings of Squitieri. Smalley and Sommer also do not disclose or suggest an integral housing extending from a first end at which an insulation-displacement terminal contact is arranged to a second end at which a contact pin is arranged.

For at least these reasons, Squitieri would not lead a person skilled in the art to the invention of claims 4-6, even in view of Smalley and Sommer. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 4-6 are respectfully requested. Applicants do not otherwise concede the correctness of the rejection and reserve the right to make additional arguments if necessary.

Claims 12-15 and 17-20 depend from claim 11 and are allowable over Squitieri for at least the same reasons as discussed above with respect to claim 11. Smalley and Sommer do not overcome the shortcomings of Squitieri. Smalley and Sommer also do not disclose or suggest an integral housing which holds contact elements including insulation-displacement terminals and contact pins.

For at least these reasons, Squitieri would not lead a person skilled in the art to the invention of claims 12-15 and 17-20, even in view of Smalley and Sommer. Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 12-15 and 17-20 are respectfully requested. Applicants do not otherwise concede the correctness of the rejection and reserve the right to make additional arguments if necessary.

Conclusion


In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's primary attorney-of record, Steven C. Bruess (Reg. No. 34,130) at (612) 336-4711.



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Respectfully submitted,

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